

Docket No. VAS-4761ConDiv

#6/B
VDE
6/25/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Shannon, et al.

Application No.: 09/912,006

Filing Date: July 24, 2001

For: RADIALLY EXPANDABLE TAPE-REINFORCED
VASCULAR GRAFTS (as amended)



Group Art Unit: 1733

Examiner: Rossi, J.

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TC 1700

AMENDMENT AND ELECTION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 29, 2001, please enter and consider the following amendments and remarks:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims ~~12-22~~, without prejudice, and amend claims 1, 5, and 6 to read as follows:

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1. A radially expandable tape-reinforced tubular vascular graft, comprising:
a tubular PTFE base graft formed by a preliminary step of expansion so as to have an expanded porosity and an expanded diameter; and
a reinforcing tape spirally wrapped around the tubular base graft in its expanded diameter to form a combined tubular PTFE base graft, the reinforcing tape being initially formed by a preliminary step of expansion so as to have an expanded porosity; and
wherein
the combined tubular PTFE base graft in its expanded diameter and the expanded reinforcing tape are radially reduced in size to a radially decreased diameter to form the